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6 Attorneys for Defendants
7 DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION,
KURT ROBERT HOGAN SR., RAMON
8 DURAN JR., SYLVIA GARCIA HOGAN,
MARIA ELENA DURAN (erroneously sued
9 herein as MARIA ELENA HOGAN)

10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
11 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
12

13 RICARDO TAVARES, JOEL RODRIGUEZ,
14
Plaintiffs,
15
v.
16
DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION, KURT
17 ROBERT HOGAN SR., RAMON DURAN JR.,
SYLVIA GARCIA HOGAN, MARIA ELENA
18 HOGAN AND DOES 1-10,
19
Defendants.

) Case No. C08-1277 HRL
)
) **DEFENDANTS DURAN HOGAN**
) **CONSTRUCTION, KURT ROBERT**
) **HOGAN SR., RAMON DURAN JR.,**
) **SYLVIA GARCIA HOGAN, MARIA**
) **ELENA DURAN'S ANSWER TO**
) **PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED**
) **COMPLAINT**

Defendants Duran Hogan Construction, Kurt Robert Hogan Sr., Ramon Duran Jr., Sylvia Garcia Hogan, Maria Elena Duran (erroneously sued herein as Maria Elena Hogan) (hereinafter “Defendants”) answer Plaintiffs’ First Amended Complaint (hereinafter “Complaint”) as follows:

NATURE OF THE CLAIM

1. Answering Paragraph 1 of the Complaint, Defendants admit that Plaintiffs’ complaint seeks compensatory damages for alleged unpaid wages, interest, penalties, attorneys’ fees and costs, liquidated damages, waiting time penalties, liquidated damages assessment, statutory penalties, and pre-judgment interest. Except as expressly admitted herein, Defendants deny each and every remaining allegation contained in Paragraph 1 of the Complaint.

2. Answering Paragraph 2 of the Complaint, Defendants admit that Plaintiffs performed labor as plumbers on various Public Works construction projects which require the payment of Prevailing Wages. Except as expressly admitted herein, Defendants deny each and every remaining allegation contained in Paragraph 2 of the Complaint.

SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. Answering Paragraph 3 of the Complaint, Defendants admit that jurisdiction of this Court is based upon the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§201 et seq. (“FLSA”). Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny each and every allegation contained in Paragraph 3.

4. Answering Paragraph 4 of the Complaint, Defendants can neither admit nor deny the allegations in this paragraph as the allegations are unintelligible. As a result, Defendants lack information or knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 4, and on that basis, deny each and every allegation contained therein.

PARTIES

5. Answering Paragraph 5 of the Complaint, Defendants lack information or knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 5, and on that basis, deny each and every allegation contained therein.

6. Answering Paragraph 6 of the Complaint, Defendants lack information or knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 6, and on that basis, deny each and every allegation contained therein.

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17. Answering Paragraph 17 of the Complaint, Defendants admit the allegations contained therein.

18. Answering Paragraph 18 of the Complaint, Defendants admit the allegations contained therein.

19. Answering Paragraph 19 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every allegation contained in Paragraph 19 of the Complaint.

20. Answering Paragraph 20 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every allegation contained in Paragraph 20 of the Complaint.

21. Answering Paragraph 21 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every allegation contained in Paragraph 21 of the Complaint.

22. Answering Paragraph 22 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every allegation contained in Paragraph 22 of the Complaint.

23. Answering Paragraph 23 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every allegation contained in Paragraph 23 of the Complaint.

COUNT TWO

*Violation of California Labor Code §§ 510, 1771 & 1194
Failure to Properly Pay Minimum Wages and Overtime on Public Works and Private
Construction Projects*

24. Answering Paragraph 24 of the Complaint, Defendants reallege and incorporate by reference their responses previously made in Paragraphs 1 through 23 above.

25. Answering Paragraph 25 of the Complaint, Defendants admit the allegations contained therein.

26. Answering Paragraph 26 of the Complaint, Defendants admit the allegations contained therein.

27. Answering Paragraph 27 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every allegation contained in Paragraph 27 of the Complaint.

28. Answering Paragraph 28 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every allegation contained in Paragraph 28 of the Complaint.

29. Answering Paragraph 29 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every

1 allegation contained in Paragraph 29 of the Complaint.

2 30. Answering Paragraph 30 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every
3 allegation contained in Paragraph 30 of the Complaint.

4 31. Answering Paragraph 31 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every
5 allegation contained in Paragraph 31 of the Complaint.

6 **COUNT THREE**
7 **BREACH OF CONTRACT – THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARY**

8 32. Answering Paragraph 32 of the Complaint, Defendants reallege and incorporate by
9 reference their responses previously made in Paragraphs 1 through 31 above.

10 33. Answering Paragraph 33 of the Complaint, Defendants lack information or
11 knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 33,
12 and on that basis, deny each and every allegation contained therein.

13 34. Answering Paragraph 34 of the Complaint, Defendants lack information or
14 knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 34,
15 and on that basis, deny each and every allegation contained therein.

16 35. Answering Paragraph 35 of the Complaint, Defendants lack information or
17 knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 35,
18 and on that basis, deny each and every allegation contained therein.

19 36. Answering Paragraph 36 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every
20 allegation contained in Paragraph 36 of the Complaint.

21 37. Answering Paragraph 37 of the Complaint, Defendants lack information or
22 knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 37,
23 and on that basis, deny each and every allegation contained therein.

24 38. Answering Paragraph 38 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every
25 allegation contained in Paragraph 38 of the Complaint.

26 39. Answering Paragraph 39 of the Complaint, Defendants admit that Plaintiffs are
27 seeking what the complaint states they are seeking. Except as expressly admitted herein,
28 Defendants deny each and every remaining allegation contained in Paragraph 39 of the Complaint.

1 herein, Defendants deny each and every remaining allegation contained in Paragraph 49 of the
2 Complaint.

3 50. Answering Paragraph 50 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every
4 allegation contained in Paragraph 50 of the Complaint.

5 51. Answering Paragraph 51 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every
6 allegation contained in Paragraph 51 of the Complaint.

7 52. Answering Paragraph 52 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every
8 allegation contained in Paragraph 52 of the Complaint.

9 **COUNT SIX**

10 California Labor Code Section 203

Waiting Time Penalties

11 53. Answering Paragraph 53 of the Complaint, Defendants reallege and incorporate by
12 reference their responses previously made in Paragraphs 1 through 52 above.

13 54. Answering Paragraph 54 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every
14 allegation contained in Paragraph 54 of the Complaint.

15 55. Answering Paragraph 55 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every
16 allegation contained in Paragraph 55 of the Complaint.

17 56. Answering Paragraph 56 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every
18 allegation contained in Paragraph 56 of the Complaint.

19 **COUNT SEVEN**

20 Violation of California Business & Professions Code §17200

Restitution for Unfair Business Practices

21 57. Answering Paragraph 57 of the Complaint, Defendants reallege and incorporate by
22 reference their responses previously made in Paragraphs 1 through 56 above.

23 58. Answering Paragraph 58 of the Complaint, Defendants deny that Duran Hogan
24 Construction was subject to the provisions of the California Labor Code and IWC Wage Orders
25 regarding overtime. Except as so denied, Defendants admit the allegations contained therein.

26 59. Answering Paragraph 59 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every
27 allegation contained in Paragraph 59 of the Complaint.

28 60. Answering Paragraph 60 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every

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1 allegation contained in Paragraph 60 of the Complaint.

2 61. Answering Paragraph 61 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every
3 allegation contained in Paragraph 61 of the Complaint.

4 62. Answering Paragraph 62 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every
5 allegation contained in Paragraph 62 of the Complaint.

6 63. Answering Paragraph 63 of the Complaint, Defendants deny each and every
7 allegation contained in Paragraph 63 of the Complaint.

8 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

9 **FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

10 AS A FIRST, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and every cause of
11 action, Defendants allege that the Complaint, and each purported claim alleged therein, fails to
12 state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

13 **SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

14 AS A SECOND, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and every cause
15 of action, Defendants allege that Plaintiffs' claims for relief are barred by the applicable statute(s)
16 of limitations.

17 **THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

18 AS A THIRD, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and every cause of
19 action, Defendants allege that Plaintiffs' claims for relief are barred by the doctrine of laches.

20 **FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

21 AS A FOURTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and every cause
22 of action, Defendants allege that Plaintiffs are barred from any and all recovery by virtue of their
23 conduct constituting a waiver of each and every alleged claim for relief.

24 **FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

25 AS A FIFTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and every cause of
26 action, Defendants allege that Plaintiffs are estopped by their own actions and conduct from
27 seeking recovery on his claims for relief.

1 SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

2 AS A SIXTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and every cause of
3 action, Defendants allege that Plaintiffs' claims are barred by their unclean hands.

4 SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

5 AS A SEVENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and every
6 cause of action, Defendants allege that Plaintiffs' claims for relief are preempted in whole or in
7 part by 29 USC 185 (Section 301 of the Labor Management Relations Act).

8 EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

9 AS A EIGHTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and every cause
10 of action, Defendants allege Plaintiffs' claims are barred because Plaintiffs approved, consented
11 to, authorized and/or ratified the alleged conduct of Defendants complained of in the Complaint.

12 NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

13 AS A NINTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and every cause of
14 action, Defendants allege that it and they duly performed, satisfied and discharged all duties and
15 obligations it/they may have had to Plaintiffs, if any, and that the allegations in the Complaint are
16 therefore barred in whole or in part by the provisions of California Civil Code Sections 1473
17 through 1477.

18 TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

19 AS A TENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and every cause of
20 action, Defendants allege that Plaintiffs have been paid all wages due and owing to them.

21 ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

22 AS A ELEVENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and every
23 cause of action, Defendants allege that any failure, if any, to pay all wages due to Plaintiffs was
24 made in good faith and based upon reasonable grounds.

25 TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

26 AS A TWELFTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and every
27 cause of action, Defendants allege that any failure by Defendants to pay wages allegedly due to
28 Plaintiffs was based on a good faith dispute as to whether those wages were due.

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1 THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

2 AS A THIRTEENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and every
3 cause of action, Defendants allege that Plaintiffs have failed to mitigate their damages, if any, by
4 failing to take such actions as are reasonably necessary to minimize any loss that may have been,
5 or in the future may be, sustained.

6 FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

7 AS A FOURTEENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and every
8 cause of action, Defendants allege that Plaintiffs are not entitled to any penalty award under
9 California Labor Code, since, at all relevant times, Defendants did not willfully fail to comply
10 with the compensation provisions of the California Labor Code, but rather acted in good faith and
11 had reasonable grounds for believing that they had not violated those provisions.

12 FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

13 AS A FIFTEENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to the seventh count
14 for violation of the UCL, Defendants allege that Plaintiffs may not recover damages for any
15 alleged violation of the UCL.

16 SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

17 AS A SIXTEENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to the seventh count
18 for violation of the UCL, Defendants allege that Plaintiffs are not entitled to restitution.

19 SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

20 AS A SEVENTEENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and
21 every cause of action, Defendants allege that Plaintiffs' claims, and the claims of the persons that
22 they purport to represent, are barred to the extent that they have failed to exhaust their
23 administrative remedies under the California Labor Code and its applicable regulations.

24 EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

25 AS A EIGHTEENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, to each and every
26 cause of action, Defendants allege that Plaintiffs' claims are barred in whole or in part because the
27 alleged damages sought in the Complaint are too speculative and uncertain.

PROOF OF SERVICE BY U.S. MAIL

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within action. My business address is 601 Gateway Boulevard, Suite 950, South San Francisco, California 94080.

On the date indicated below, I served by mail, a true copy of the following documents:

**DEFENDANTS DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION, KURT ROBERT HOGAN SR.,
RAMON DURAN JR., SYLVIA GARCIA HOGAN, MARIA ELENA DURAN'S ANSWER
TO PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT**

I am readily familiar with the practice of this business for collection and processing of documents for mailing with the United States Postal Service. Documents so collected and processed are placed for collection and deposit with the United States Postal Service that same day in the ordinary course of business. The above-referenced document(s) were placed in (a) sealed envelope(s) with postage thereon fully prepaid, addressed to each of the below listed parties and such envelope(s) was (were) placed for collection and deposit with the United States Postal Service on the date listed below at South San Francisco, California.

Adam Wang
Law Offices of Adam Wang
12 South First Street, Suite 613
San Jose, CA 95113

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on June 30, 2008, at South San Francisco, California.

_____/s/_____
Danielle Lamica